

Public Health Committee: H.B. 6200
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

I'm writing in support of proposed bill 6200, ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR THE TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE.***

I have been sick from Lyme Disease since 1987. It took almost 3 years to diagnose and over 27 doctors to figure it out. I went everywhere to try and find out what was wrong with me. I was misdiagnosed with so many diseases/ailments, I now look back and don't know why I never gave up - even though there were many times I wanted to. I was 28 yrs. old and an executive VP, making six figures who became bed ridden, with some mysterious illness. I was in the prime of my life and it was stolen from me. I thought that when I finally did get diagnosed, it would get better right away. I was so wrong.

I did over many years slowly improve, but not without a fight. Doctors were under the gun, to *not* continue treating me, even though I was still so sick. Why? Back then I thought, they just did not have enough research, but what is their excuse now, all these years later?

Now, doctors risk losing their licenses to treat Lyme. It is absurdity.

I have continually sought out doctors/treatments and have continued to take antibiotics all these years and am no longer bed ridden. **Long term antibiotics work!** I have tried a couple of times to stop them, only to relapse horribly. I have reached a plateau and will continue to take antibiotics to keep me there, until I no longer have symptoms. I pray every day that a cure will be found for this insidious disease. It has taken all my families savings, and tons of fighting with insurance to try and get better. I still am not able to work and am so tired of being a burden. I would give anything to be well again. I almost lost my home over having long term IV treatments. The insurance company pre-certified the treatment and then said they would not pay, after I completed it. What is happening at the insurance level? They continue to deny coverage for so many people. You have the power to stop this.

At 40, I gave birth to my son who tested positive for Lyme and Bartonella both in his blood and tissue, despite me being on antibiotics the whole pregnancy. Thankfully, I had these Lyme doctors then in 2002, to treat my newborn. Now at age 6, he is a healthy boy. My Lyme doctors (who are out of my insurance network) knew how to treat him, but the pediatrician, neonatologist, obstetrician and other doctors at our local hospital, were astounded when they found this out. They had no idea that the bacteria would even pass from mother to fetus. How are they this clueless in the year 2002 in Fairfield County, Connecticut? I don't even want to think of where my son would be now, had he not had the treatment he did. Those Lyme doctors are heroes. They prevented a disaster from happening and yet they are being scrutinized.

After 22 years of suffering, why do we still have to fight to get treated, go into debt to pay for an out of network doctor, and have the Lyme experts looking over their shoulder while they treat this? If people could get treated right away which is key, and treated by their regular doctors until they are better, maybe then less people will end up with Chronic Lyme and we can better spend time finding a **cure**. Connecticut was the birth place of Lyme, let's make it the great state that cured it!

Please pass this bill so we can protect our Connecticut doctors and have a chance at conquering Lyme disease and the coinfections associated with it. This will help so many patients in Connecticut and will unburden them with unnecessary battles. Hopefully this will also give the doctors the incentive to become more educated, now that there is **no fear** of losing their licenses.

Please help us.

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